

THE JACOBS REPORT

GILDA Z. JACOBS
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FOURTEENTH DISTRICT

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GOVERNOR, LOTTERY COMMISSIONER & EDUCATORS DISCUSS PROP 1

Governor Jennifer M. Granholm and Michigan Bureau of State Lottery Commissioner Gary Peters this week joined Michigan educators to discuss the negative impact that Proposal 1 could have on education funding for Michigan schools.

“The Michigan Lottery plays a critical role in supporting our education system and our children,” said Granholm. “Every year it contributes upwards of \$600 million to our schools. If Proposal 1 passes, however, the Lottery’s future could be threatened.”

Peters explained that the ballot language would prevent the Lottery from creating new games, which would impede the Lottery’s ability to maintain and grow its business.

“Proposal 1 could prevent us from continuing to create successful, competitive, and popular games like Club Keno,” said Peters. “Club Keno brought in \$204 million in total sales in its first year, resulting in \$57 million for education. That is the most successful launch for a Lottery game ever and it enabled us to contribute a record amount of money to the state School Aid Fund.”

Earlier this week, the Michigan Lottery announced a record-setting \$644.5 million contribution to the School Aid Fund. The Lottery’s 2004 contribution is expected to fund 5.2 percent of the \$12.4 billion total School Aid budget. The record contribution from the Lottery this year is credited in large part to the highly successful launch of Club Keno into Michigan bars and restaurants in late October, 2003. One hundred percent of lottery net profits go to Michigan schools. In its 32-year history, and including the \$644.5 million for FY 2004, the Lottery has contributed \$12.1 billion to education in Michigan.

“In these tough economic times, we rely even more on the revenue the Lottery provides our schools,” Granholm said. “The Lottery helps us move Michigan forward and helps us grow the School Aid Fund, so that we can better educate our children and get them ready for new, high-tech jobs.”

The Michigan Lottery was established in 1972 through a constitutional amendment. Net proceeds went into the state’s general fund budget, and in 1981, language earmarking the money to go specifically to the state School Aid Fund was adopted by the Legislature and signed into law by Gov. William Milliken.

For further information about the Michigan Lottery, go to www.michigan.gov/lottery.

JACOBS EARNS ADVOCACY AWARD

Last week, Sen. Gilda Jacobs (D-Huntington Woods) accepted the 2005 Phyllis Levine Award on for her ongoing efforts to protect the rights of the mentally ill. The award was presented on behalf of the International Association of Psychosocial Rehabilitation Services (IASPRS), a statewide organization representing consumers, family members and non profit providers of mental health services. The ceremony was part of the annual IASPRS Power Day Rally held Wednesday, October 6th at the Capitol.

Jacobs commended the crowd for attending the rally and urged them to visit with their legislators to serve as the voice for the mentally ill. She cited housing, transportation, and access to mental health care as critical issues. Jacobs also reminded the crowd that the Governor has kept mental health funding intact since she took office.

Jacobs is a member of the Governor's Mental Health Task Force, which is expected to make their recommendations at the end of October.

DEMOCRATS PROMOTE NEW DRUG CARD---AT NO EXPENSE TO TAXPAYERS

State Democrats are promoting a new prescription drug card program that could provide as many as 200,000 lower-income people with discounts on prescription drug purchases. Governor Granholm officially unveiled the new prescription drug card program earlier this month in Farmington Hills.

“This is a win-win for Michigan,” said state Senator Gilda Z. Jacobs (D-Huntington Woods). “This new discount program costs taxpayers absolutely nothing, and it will help low-income families avoid having to choose between medically necessary prescription drugs and other basic necessities.”

The discount program will be funded through costs savings from bulk purchases negotiated with drug companies and participating pharmacies. The program is designed for individuals and families who have no other drug coverage and meet certain income guidelines.

“The Granholm administration and Democratic leaders have been working cooperatively for the last eight months to make this program available to the people of Michigan,” said state Senator Ray Basham (D-Taylor). “The fact that we could get this program implemented at no expense to the taxpayers of Michigan is a testament to Governor Granholm's fine leadership.”

The program is expected to provide enrolled members with an average cost savings of 20 percent. The program will also have no enrollment fees. Applications can be downloaded from the community health web site at: www.michigan.gov/mdch. Those who don't have web access may call Senator Jacobs' office toll-free at 1-888-937-4453.

UPCOMING EVENTS

GERONTOLOGY PANEL DISCUSSION

Monday, November 8, 10:30 AM – 12:15 PM

Botsford Commons Community

Town Commons Dining Room

21300 Archwood Circle

Farmington Hills

All Michigan legislation can be tracked at <http://www.legislature.michigan.gov/> .

State Senator Gilda Jacobs represents the 14th Senate District, which includes Beverly Hills, Bingham Farms, Farmington, Farmington Hills, Ferndale, Franklin, Hazel Park, Huntington Woods, Lathrup Village, Oak Park, Pleasant Ridge, Royal Oak Township, Southfield, and Southfield Township. She is the Minority Vice Chair of the Families & Human Services Committee and the Economic Development, Small Business & Regulatory Reform Committee. She also serves on the Government Operations and Health Policy Committees.

Constituents of the 14th District may contact Senator Jacobs at sengjacobs@senate.michigan.gov or toll-free at 1-888-937-4453.

This newsletter is produced in single-space form in order to save paper and transmission costs.

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